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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



IN MEMORIAM

Edward Jenkins Harden.

Obit. XIX April MDCCCLXXIII.

Aetatis sue LV.

PROCEEDINGS,
RESOLUTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS,

COMMEMORATIVE

OF THE

HON. EDWARD J. HARDEN,

ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, AND PRESIDENT
OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

WHO DIED APRIL 19th, 1873.

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"—*Cui Pudor et Justitia soror,
Incorrupta Fides, nudaque Veritas
Quando ullum invenient parem?*"

THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
11 JUNE, 1873.

PRINTED AT THE MORNING NEWS OFFICE.

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THIS MEMORIAL PAMPHLET

IS ISSUED UNDER AUTHORITY, AND BY DIRECTION, OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BY ITS COMMITTEE, (CONSISTING OF DR. R. D. ARNOLD, HON. SOLOMON COHEN, WM. S. BOGART, ESQ., DR. J. HARRISS, AND HON. T. M. NORWOOD,) IN ORDER TO GATHER INTO ONE, THE PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS OF VARIOUS PUBLIC BODIES, AND ALSO SUCH PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS AS CAME TO HAND,

C O M M E M O R A T I V E

OF ITS

LATE LAMENTED PRESIDENT,

H O N. E D W A R D J. H A R D E N.



From the Savannah Daily Advertiser, Sunday, 20th April, 1873.

DEATH OF HON. EDWARD J. HARDEN.

Our community was shocked on yesterday by the announcement of the death of Judge Edward J. Harden, which event occurred suddenly, at the Indian Springs, at a very early hour.

Judge Harden was one of the oldest and most prominent members of the Savannah Bar. He was a genial and accomplished gentleman, an humble Christian, and a most estimable citizen, both in public and private life.

He was born in the county of Bryan, on the 19th of November, 1813. Pursuing his education in that county, he came to Savannah when quite a young man and accepted a teacher's place in the Chatham Academy, then under the supervision of Professor George White. He subsequently studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and opened an office in this city in 1834, since which time he has resided here.

Judge Harden was at one time Judge of the City Court of Savannah. During the war he was Judge of the Confederate Court for the District of Georgia, and at the time of his death occupied the position of City Attorney.

After the decease of Bishop Elliott, Judge Harden was elected to succeed him as President of the Georgia Historical Society.

He never mingled in political life, but devoted himself to the practice of his profession, and the culture of his literary tastes. The result of the latter has been given to the public in the shape of a memorial of the life, character and services of Governor George M. Troup.

On the 17th of November last, Judge Harden was attacked with a carbuncle on his neck. After long suffering, he rose from his bed to find his system completely shattered by the attack. By the advice of his physicians, he went a week since to the Indian Springs in search of health and strength. Tidings from him which gave hopes of speedy improvement, have been followed by the announcement of his death. He leaves a widow and five children, to whom in their affliction the tenderest sympathies of the whole community go forth.

From the Savannah Daily Republican, Sunday, 20th April, 1873.

JUDGE HARDEN.

BORN 19TH NOVEMBER, 1813—DIED 19TH APRIL, 1873.

The painful intelligence reached Savannah yesterday morning that Judge Harden suddenly died at Indian Springs.

The immediate cause of this unexpected calamity was not stated in the brief telegram to his family announcing the sad event.

On last Sunday night, Judge Harden left the city with his wife to pass a few days in the interior for recreation and change, with the hope that the tour would strengthen and invigorate his system, after the long and protracted confinement of his recent illness. He expected to return yesterday, improved and better prepared to meet the duties of life; and in the inscrutable order of things, it has transpired that just one day later than this appointed time, his family and friends and the people of Savannah are called upon in sorrow and in sadness to do the last honors to the departed citizen and jurist.

In last November, he was attacked with a carbuncle on the neck, which confined him to his bed until the middle of last March, and these long months of suffering and pain so prostrated his physical energies and shattered his nervous system, that the vital forces were too enfeebled to rally from the shock.

Judge Edward Jenkins Harden was born in Bryan county, on the Medway river, the 19th day of November, 1813. When quite a youth, he entered the arena of life as Assistant Teacher in the Chatham Academy, under the Rev. George White as Principal in charge. Subsequently teaching in the counties of Bryan and Glynn, he at the same time prosecuted the study of the law, and in 1834 was admitted to the practice in Georgia.

Immediately opening an office in Savannah—the site of which is now occupied by the Custom House, on Bull street—the young attorney applied himself with a zeal and earnestness to his profession which soon won him a prominent and enviable position at the bar.

Before the war he was for a time judge of the City Court of Savannah, and during the existence of the Southern Confederacy was Confederate States Judge for the district of Georgia.

At the cessation of armed hostilities, he returned to his home in the Forest City, from which he had been driven by the Federal forces under Sherman, and resumed the practice of his profession, forming with Capt. S. Yates Levy the law firm of Harden & Levy, now as well known and as prominent as any law partnership in the State. For several years he was City Attorney of Savannah, and held the position at the time of his death.

During his life, Judge Harden eschewed the allurements of a political career, and devoted himself singly and with that marked fidelity to the law, which that most jealous mistress demands in the favorites she crowns with her best honors, and he was one of these.

While pursuing the inexhaustible researches of the profession, Judge Harden, though like Judge Blackstone among the most accomplished English lawyers, did not deny himself the rich pleasures of literature, and was a gleaner of the rarest and amplest productions of classical fields; and had worthily and well long held the office of President of the Georgia Historical Society.

Few men surpassed him in legal lore and learning; few, in a thorough and happy acquaintance with the great thoughts of the great minds of the past; and none, in the amenities of social, domestic and professional life.

While his family and Savannah mourn in his death, even at the ripe age of nearly three score years, an irreparable loss, the bar of Georgia and the whole State sadly unite in lamenting the closing of a career which reflected honor upon the profession and lustre upon the commonwealth.

The funeral services of Judge Harden will take place from the First Presbyterian Church, of which he was a ruling elder, at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

From the Savannah Daily Morning News, Monday, 21st April, 1873.

THE HON. E. J. HARDEN.

HIS DEATH AND BURIAL.

The intelligence of the sudden death of Judge E. J. Harden, at Indian Springs, reached this city on Saturday morning, and

occasioned genuine and heartfelt sorrow throughout the entire community, with which he had so long and favorably been identified. On the 17th of last November, Judge Harden was attacked with a carbuncle on his neck, and was confined to his bed for several months, but after severe suffering, which completely prostrated his physical energies and shattered his nervous system, he made his appearance again among his friends, but so altered that many at first failed to recognize him. About a week or ten days since he went to Indian Springs, in the hope of regaining completely his health and strength, and the reports from him which gave encouragement of speedy recovery were quickly followed by the announcement of his death. He leaves a wife and five children, who in this hour of trouble have the warmest sympathy of the community which loved and honored the deceased.

Judge Harden was born in Bryan county, in 1813, and when quite a young man came to this city and entered life as a teacher in Chatham Academy, then under the superintendence of Prof. Geo. White. Subsequently he devoted himself to the law, passed a highly creditable examination, was admitted to the Bar, and in 1834 opened an office in this city, where he has since continued to reside.

He was at one time Judge of the City Court of Savannah, and during the war was Confederate States Judge for the District of Georgia. At the close of hostilities he returned to the city, and forming a copartnership with Capt. S. Yates Levy, resumed the practice of his profession. He was subsequently elected City Attorney, which position he filled to the entire satisfaction of the public up to the time of his death.

Judge Harden was no politician, and devoted himself exclusively to his profession and the gratification of his literary taste, the result of the latter being seen in the memorial of the life, character and services of Governor George M. Troup. After the death of Bishop Elliott, Judge Harden was elected to succeed him as President of the Georgia Historical Society.

He was no less loved and esteemed as a man than he was distinguished as a sound and able jurist. Witty, genial, accomplished, a thorough gentleman, there were few men as popular in any circle as he whose demise we have here recorded, and his memory will long be cherished most affectionately and reverently by those who knew him best.

His funeral took place yesterday afternoon from the First Presbyterian church, of which he had long been an Elder. The remains were borne from the late residence of the deceased to the church about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The services were conducted by Rev. D. H. Porter, pastor, and were of the most impressive character. The funeral was very largely attended by our most prominent citizens, and by the members of the Georgia Historical Society.

From the Savannah Daily Advertiser, 24th April, 1873.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At the meeting of Council last night, his Honor Mayor Anderson, referred in feeling terms to the death of the late Judge Edward J. Harden, and requested the Clerk to read the following resolutions, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from among us a citizen well beloved and respected, and who has for many years past occupied a position of high trust under the government of this city; now be it

Resolved, by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, in Council assembled—

1st. That we have learned with deep sorrow and concern of the death of the Hon. Edward J. Harden, lately the Corporation Attorney, a prominent and useful citizen of this community, and who for many years past has been a trusted and devoted servant of the city.

2d. That in his death we recognize not only the loss of a valuable citizen, but also of one who in his professional capacity was invaluable to Council for his devotion, ability and fidelity to the interests of Savannah.

3d. That outside of his relations with the City Government, we recognize an integrity of life, and a purity of example, which call for acknowledgment of Council and recommendation of so bright an example to our citizens.

4th. That a copy of these resolutions be furnished, with the assurance of the deepest sympathy of Council, to the grief-stricken family of our deceased friend; and that they be published in the official proceedings of this meeting.

From the Savannah Daily Morning News, 26th April, 1873.

COMMUNICATED.

THE LATE JUDGE HARDEN.

The death of Judge Harden will carry sorrow to the heart of every one who knew the man. The writer of this knew him first at the tender age of eight years, when he was pupil and the Judge his preceptor. The attachment then formed for him has lasted more than forty years, and will not cease as long as he shall be spared. It was founded in the kindness of the man to a helpless little boy, who found all others in the same connection austere, if not severe. About the year 1832, Chatham Academy was in the zenith of its career. It numbered from two hundred to two hundred and fifty students, and some six or seven assistant teachers. Among these at one time was the late Hon. E. J. Harden, then, of course, a very young man. Up to the time of his coming, nothing could be more mournful to the writer than the sound of the bell summoning the little fellows to enter into that dark and dismal pit of a vestibule, which was in keeping with the "blue bench," and the *strap* that reigned supreme upstairs. Then Solomon's maxim of "Spare the rod and spoil the child," obtained almost everywhere. At this juncture, it was the writer's good fortune to be transferred to the tutorage of young Harden. He soon found him kind and considerate to all his pupils, especially to those of tender years. His rule was in such marked contrast with that of others, who looked solely to the fears of the little tremblers, while his was all love and gentleness. Time and distance soon interposed between the pupil and the youthful preceptor, and he knew nothing of his career. He read from the papers that a lawyer in Savannah was named Harden, but it never occurred to him that he was his beloved teacher, until thrown in contact with him as student or lawyer in after years. Since then he kept informed of his progress, and has had business and social intercourse with him. Others knew as well, or better than the writer, that the promise of the youth was even more than sustained in his manhood at every stage. It was the destiny of the writer to appear before him as a judge, and to be associated with him in professional enterprises. In these connections, it was manifest that the kindness and justice of the youth were enlarged and matured in the man. His native

modesty was fully equal to his other excellent qualities of head and heart. He was not vain of himself or his useful achievements, in professional or private life. As a consequence, there was no one deputed to trumpet his fame. All the acts of his very honorable and useful life stand upon their own merits. It is known to but few, but the present Code of Georgia bears testimony to his learning and industry. Many chapters on most important subjects in *the body* of the book, and *all* the laws in reference to the City of Savannah, are from his pen, and adopted by the Commissioners. These, with his other achievements of a professional and literary character, will endure, while the more brilliant but meteoric fame of others will be forgotten. And as long as a boy lives who went to school to him he will be *loved*, and his children inculcated in the same divine attribute. It is meet this should be so—for love was the law of his nature—not occasional or fitful, but constant and uniform—such as Timrod, the Burns of the South, has depicted in one of his sonnets, worthy of quotation *here*, and of universal dissemination:

Most men know love but as a part of life;
 They hide it in some corner of the breast,
 Even from themselves; and only when they rest
 In the brief pauses of that daily strife,
 Wherewith the world might else be not so rife,
 They draw it forth (as one draws forth a toy
 To soothe some ardent kiss-exacting boy),
 And hold it up to sister, child or wife.
 Ah, me! why may not love and life be one?
 Why walk we thus alone, when by our side
 Love, like a visible God, might be our guide?
 How would the marts grow noble! and the street
 Worn like a dungeon floor by weary feet,
 Seen then like a golden court-way of the sun!

IN MEMORIAM.

DIED, at the Indian Springs, April 19th, 1873, HON. EDWARD J. HARDEN, of this city.

“The earth is poorer than it was,
 A noble soul hath passed away,
 The keen bright intellect has fled,
 The form returned to clay.
 And can no love or friendship keep
 Our dear ones from Death’s icy sleep?”

We cling closely to our earthly treasures, we clasp our frail, weak arms around them; but death is ever near, with unfolded pinions, quivering for flight, ready to obey the mandate, and snatch our idols from our arms.

Hon. E. J. Harden was a native of Bryan county, but removed to this city in early manhood, where a life of usefulness bears testimony to the integrity of his character. True Christianity controlled his actions through life, and his Savior's last command, "Come up higher," found him ready; and with the words of social converse on his lips, his spirit gently passed away. No more will he fill positions of honor or of trust; no more will he preside in our earthly courts; but in the court of Heaven he fills the seat assigned him by the Ruler of the Universe. His place is vacant in the Church and in the Sabbath School, and the last sad tribute of the Scholars, when each one placed a floral offering on the casket that held his mortal remains, was indeed due the memory of him who had taught them how to die.

"The memory of the just is blest."

Then leave the saint to sleep,
Nor sorrow o'er his loss.
Why should we wildly weep?
He left on earth the cross,
And from the grave his dust shall rise,
In God's own image in the skies.

FRIEND.

SAVANNAH, April 29th, 1873.

From the Savannah Republican, Sunday, 4th May, 1873.

THE LATE HON. E. J. HARDEN.

A memorial sermon will be preached this morning in the First Presbyterian church, in Monterey square, by the Rev. Dr. D. H. Porter, in commemoration of the life, character and death of Hon. E. J. Harden, who held a high position in the church, and was one of its most beloved officers. We give this public notice that the many friends of the deceased may know and be present.

From the Savannah Republican, Sunday, 4th May, 1873.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY.

There will be a meeting in the room of the Superior Court of Chatham County, at half past nine o'clock Tuesday morning, to receive the report of the committee appointed to prepare resolutions in memory of the Hon. Edward J. Harden. The members of the Bar are respectfully invited to attend.

From the Savannah Morning News, Monday, 5th May, 1873.

HON. E. J. HARDEN.

SYNOPSIS OF A MEMORIAL DISCOURSE DELIVERED IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAY 4TH, 1873, BY THE PASTOR.

I do not know how I can better respond to the suggestions of this occasion than by calling your attention for a little while to the 26th verse of the 13th chapter of Acts, "David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep." Short as this record is, no man ever had left behind him a richer biography; no marble monument ever bore a nobler epitaph, and when we remember that it was uttered by the tongue of inspiration, we are constrained to believe that the tribute to the memory of this minstrel monarch and sweet singer of Israel, is faithful to *facts* in his case, which is more, perhaps, than can be said of some of the glowing inscriptions which adorn many gorgeous sepulchres.

It is said of this great and good man that he "served his own generation;" the idea is, that the "will of God," the law of God, was the rule or standard by which he conducted his life and moulded his character, and that the *glory* of God was the motive which prompted him to the service of his generation. With his eye fixed upon this glory of God as the one great end to be achieved, he went forth under the holy and divine impulse to serve his generation and to do good to his fellow-men; that is to

say, in devoting himself to the service of his generation and laboring for the good of his fellow-men, he made the will of God, the rule and glory of God, the ultimate end of his existence. It is abundantly declared in Scripture (and reason will lead us to the same conclusion) that the will of God is the only safe rule which should direct and control our life, and that this rule, when properly applied, will lead us to the glory of God as the ultimate end of our being. Man was made to glorify God. As the dependent creature of His bounty, as one who cannot live or move, or breathe, or think, without permission of divine will, the highest and noblest end of his being is to love and serve, and thereby glorify God; and when we remember the superior excellence and glory of divine character, the natural obligation is sustained by a moral force equally as strong, and the two together bind us to duty in bonds inseparable. In illustration of this point I need scarcely remark that to glorify God, or give glory to God, is not to add anything to His essential glory—not to give him something which He did not have before—He always was and always will be infinitely blessed and glorious in His own adorable perfections; when *man* is glorified it is by adding something to him, but when God is glorified it is simply by making known or revealing what He already is, His character and perfections. The more we know of the *creature*, the more do we see his imperfection, frailty and sin, and he who is best acquainted with human nature and has most diligently studied the character and history of the human heart, is best disposed to exaggerate what is called the “dignity and glory of man.”

But it is quite contrary with respect to God. The more we know of Him, the more disposed we shall be to worship and adore His greatness and tremble at His holiness. Just in proportion as we understand and appreciate His character and apprehend His nature and perfections, in the same proportion shall we be inclined to render Him that obedience and love which He requires. To give glory to God, therefore, is simply to make known *what God is*, to reflect *His* glory and to reveal the excellence of His character. It is in this way God is glorified by the material universe. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork,” because they are evidences of His wisdom and power. It is in the same way the people of God glorify Him, by reflecting His glory, by showing to the world what God is, by manifesting, according to their measure

the glorious perfections of His character, hence that man gives most glory to God who is most *like* God, who lives and labors most in accordance with the will of God. And as His people are moral and intelligent creatures, it therefore comes to pass, that the degree of glory given to God by them is far greater than that which is given by the inanimate and irrational creation, for while this latter does show forth the praises of our God—while His name and glory are written in letters of light all over the starry skies above us, and traced in syllables of beauty upon the flowery earth beneath us, yet there are some of His most blessed and adorable attributes, some of the most lovely features of His character which cannot be displayed by them; His holiness, and justice, and *grace*, that grace which pardons the guilty and purifies the soul, could never be impressed upon senseless matter; these must be displayed, if displayed at all, by moral, intelligent creatures, and just as man is acted upon by these attributes, and becomes the medium through which they are made known to His fellows—just to that degree does he glorify God. Every believer, therefore, every man who has been regenerated by the Spirit of God becomes in a certain sense a revelation of God “an epistle known and read of all men;” he throws out upon others and back to God as from a reflecting surface, the rays of that glory which proceeded originally from God, and God takes pleasure in beholding His own perfections mirrored in the hearts and illustrated in the lives of His people. “The Lord taketh pleasure in His people, in them that face Him and hope in His mercy.” It is thus that we are to glorify God, the will of God becomes the rule of our life, the glory of God the end of our existence, and we shall be prepared to go forth as David did, according to the will of God, to serve our generation, laboring for the good of our fellow-men, and thus manifesting the second element, which enters into the composition of a life and character such as *God* approves. It is a noble and exalted purpose to live for the good of others; it is a blessed mission to make the world happier and better from our living in it, a mission which the angels of Heaven might justly envy, and which brought the Saviour into the world and induced Him to labor and suffer and die. In the presence of such a spirit as that which prompted Jesus of Nazareth to despise the shame and endure the Cross, in the light of His blessed and glorious example, how miserable appears the spirit of the man who lives and labors for nothing but *himself*, whose aspirations

never go beyond the narrow domain of his own individuality, whose whole life begins and centres and ends in himself and for himself. Nay, brethren, we owe it to God, to ourselves and to the world, to "serve our generation." No man has the right to cut himself off from his fellows, and ignore the claims of the world upon him. No man can do it without perverting the very principles of his own nature, and defrauding the world and God both of their just and righteous due. We are by nature social beings, endowed with certain feelings and sympathies, and environed by certain wants and necessities, which lead us to form associations and connections with others, of the strongest and tenderest kind. The whole net work of society is so deftly woven, that all men are bound together by ties of affection, or business, or blood, and are transmitted to another and another until we know not when vibration may cease. Every man has his measure of influence, greater or less, according to circumstances, whether he sways a sceptre or drives a plane; in the counting room or in the cabinet; the shepherd driving his flock to the fields, or the warrior leading the armies to battle—every man that lives exerts some degree of influence in the world—if he moves at all he must necessarily affect those that are about him, and that influence lives and works oftentimes long after man himself has passed away and been forgotten. There is a double immortality for every man—an immortality in the future, stretching far away into the hidden depths of eternity, where an angel's wing cannot follow it, and an immortality in the *past*, living from one generation to another in the effect of an evil or a useful life. Who of us here to-day does not bear mark for good or evil, left upon him by some hand long since mouldered into dust? Who can estimate the power of a single *word* or a single thought, when that thought comes warm and glowing from the heart? The thoughts of men who lived long years ago are breathing still and working mighty results in the history of the world; and words spoken far back in the dimness of hoary antiquity are living still, and shall never die.

I honestly believe that these principles were illustrated in a large measure by the life and history of him whom we knew so long and loved so well, and whom two weeks ago we laid to his rest in the tomb. I think it can be truthfully said of him, that after he had served his own generation by the will of God, he fell on sleep, and in a conversation held with him but a few

weeks before his death, alluding to the possibility of such an event, he begged that I should deliver no funeral discourse over his remains—that I should have only the plain and simple service for the dead, reading the 90th Psalm and 15th chapter 1st Corinthians—and that if anything at all were said, it should rather be words of comfort to the loved ones left behind him. I religiously complied with his request on that sad occasion, but have exercised my prerogative as pastor on this occasion, and yield to my own feelings and sense of propriety in making the service of this morning tributary to his memory, as having been so long identified with the history of this church.

Judge Harden was no ordinary man—he was a man of mark—he has left his impress upon the history of his times. It is not for me to speak of his record at the bar and on the bench, in the line of that noble profession whose sublime mission it is to defend the right and expose the wrong.

His fellows, by whom he was regarded as "*Primus inter pares*," will see that his labors in this field of exalted service are not forgotten. I should like to dwell, if time permitted, upon his signal success in the cultivation of literary pursuits. Rarely ever has a man, so encumbered with professional and other duties, obtained such excellence in this regard. He was regarded as authority on all questions of ancient literature, while his mind was richly stored with the best thoughts and purest language of the English classics. Without any appearance of pedantic display, his conversation was exceedingly interesting and instructive to those whose taste ran in the same direction. Now I come to speak of him in a character upon which I love to dwell. I have never known a more diligent student of the Bible. Its language was as familiar to him as household words. He studied the Bible habitually, he studied prayerfully, critically. There were very few men outside of the ministerial profession more familiar with the letter and spirit of it. He was thoroughly conversant with all the great theological questions of the Church, from the earliest ages of its history, and his pastor is in no small degree indebted to him for instruction and information on these points. His mind, with the analytic power and legal acumen, for which he was distinguished, grasped the great fundamental principles of the doctrines of grace with a tenacity that could not be weakened, and a conviction that could not be shaken. I well remember, some years ago using an expression in the ordinary ministrations

of the pulpit which seemed to take great hold of his mind, and to which he afterwards often referred. Speaking of the justification of the sinner before God and his dependence upon Christ, the expression was that Christ, to whom we look as our substitute and surety, was "legally righteous and personally holy," and therefore, all sufficient to meet the case of any poor sinner that ever fled to him for refuge—and not many months before his last illness began he said to me, "my hope of salvation is in Christ only—who is personally holy and legally righteous, and therefore I can confidently trust him." He was born of a pious ancestry, early brought under the influence of Godly examples, his young mind was largely moulded in things intellectual and spiritual by the learned and pious McWhir, who was so influential in turning the early history of Southern Georgia into the channels of virtue and religion. But it was not until the year 1845, that Judge Harden made a public profession of religion, uniting with this church, then under the pastoral care of Rev. J. B. Ross, who, with the Elders that received him, Maxwell, Faries and Cumming, went before him to the Beautiful Land of Rest.

In 1847 he was elected a ruling elder in this church and clerk of the session, which positions he held to the day of his death, besides being all the while faithful and diligent in caring for the prayer-meeting and Sabbath school, and I think those of you who were present here on the day of his burial, cannot soon forget the beautiful and touching tribute paid to his memory by the teachers and children of the school. It would not be seemly to lift the veil which enclosed his family and domestic life, to which I was ever so freely admitted, and in which he was so loved and honored. Nor can I trust myself to speak of my own personal relations to him. I can tell you about that elsewhere, but not here and now. Judge Harden's last days were full of physical pain and suffering, and yet borne with Christian patience.

Often and often again at the twilight hour it was my privilege to bow at his bedside and join with him in prayer, and on every occasion his expression was: "I am in the hands of God; He will do what is best." This spirit characterized him to the last. With all his learning and culture, with all his legal and scholastic lore, his faith in Christ was that of a little child, and in one of the last prayers he offered, at the Springs, whither he had gone in the hope of regaining his health, his petition was that he might be spared to return to the bosom of his family, but if not, God's

will be done; and so, with unfaltering faith in God, he yielded up his mortal life, "having served his own generation, by the will of God, he fell on sleep." How blest in life or in death is the righteous man.

"He feeds in pastures large and fair,
Of love and truth divine—
Oh! child of God, Oh, glory's heir,
How rich a lot is thine—
A hand almighty to defend,
An ear for every call,
An honored life, a peaceful end,
And Heaven to crown it all!"

I cannot more appropriately close this service than by reading the following paper, unanimously adopted by the Session of this Church; a paper drawn up by one who for many years stood side by side with our deceased friend in the work of the Church, bearing with him the heat and burden of the day, with a fraternal and Christian love which even the cold waters of death cannot quench, but which shall be renewed in better and brighter scenes hereafter:

IN MEMORIAM—THE LATE JUDGE HARDEN.

At a meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, held on Saturday evening, the following paper, reported by a committee at a previous meeting, was received and unanimously adopted :

Again are we called upon to acknowledge the hand of death in our midst, removing one of our number from time to eternity.

Our beloved Brother Elder, associate and friend, Hon. Edward J. Harden, has gone to his final rest, leaving us to finish the journey of life and discharge the duties allotted to us here until the summons shall come to us, and God grant that whenever it may come we may be enabled to leave behind us the same joyful hope that he has left of a "departure to be with Christ."

Judge Harden became a member of this church upon the profession of his faith in Jesus Christ, in September, 1845, and in December, 1847, he was elected, ordained and installed a Ruling Elder, and at the first meeting or session thereafter, in December of same year, he was elected Clerk of Session, and continued to discharge the duties of that office (until prevented by sickness a few months past) in a manner remarkable for correctness and comprehensive brevity.

For more than a quarter of a century he discharged the duties of Ruling Elder with faithfulness and fidelity, and to the entire satisfaction of his associates and the whole church. His eminent legal attainments and highly cultivated mind fitted him especially for the discharge of the duties of an officer in the Church. His wise counsel and prudent advice have been eminently valuable in promoting the interests of the Church, both spiritual and temporal, in days that are past. His place in the Sanctuary and the Prayer Meeting was rarely ever vacant. For many years he was devoted to the interest of the Sunday School, both as a teacher and superintendent, and his memory will be cherished there with sincere affection both by teachers and scholars.

In his domestic and social relations, Judge Harden was pre-eminent. Few men have been more deservedly *honored* and *beloved* in the family circle, and his death leaves a blank, not only there but in the hearts of many a warmly attached friend, that time can scarcely ever fill. In view of this sad bereavement, be it

Resolved, That in the death of our dearly beloved Brother Elder, Hon. Edward J. Harden, we have sustained a loss, individually, as a Session and as a Church, which the Great Head of the Church alone can supply, and to Him we look to sanctify to us this heavy dispensation of His Divine Providence, and make it the means of more earnest devotion to the work of our office, and that He will make us the humble instruments in His hands of building up the Church and promoting His Glory.

Resolved, That we tender our most cordial and heartfelt sympathy to the family of our beloved brother, in this their hour of deep affliction, under which God alone can sustain, console and comfort them; and to Him we commend them, with our most earnest prayers that the bright example they have had before them may lead them to "a close walk with God," and when they, too, depart, they may be united to him on that "blissful shore" where there is no more parting.

Resolved, That a copy of this action be placed upon our records, and that a certified copy be sent to the family of our deceased brother; also that copies be sent to the city papers and the *Southern Presbyterian* for publication.

From the Savannah Morning News, Wednesday, 7th May, 1873.

THE SAVANNAH BAR.

TRIBUTE TO A DISTINGUISHED DECEASED MEMBER.

A large meeting of the members of the Savannah Bar was held yesterday, in pursuance of adjournment, in the Superior Court room, at 9½ o'clock. The committee appointed at the last meeting offered, through their Chairman, Henry Williams, Esq., the following as the

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE IN MEMORY OF EDWARD J. HARDEN.

The Committee appointed to prepare and present to the Bar resolutions concerning the death of the late Judge Harden, respectfully report the following:

The members of the Savannah Bar desire, upon this occasion, to express in a few simple words the sorrow which they sincerely feel for the loss of their friend and associate, the late Honorable Edward J. Harden; and also their appreciation of his worth as a lawyer and as a man.

Judge Harden, at the time of his death, was one of the oldest members of our fraternity, and had, therefore, during his many years of practice, become intimately associated, personally and professionally, with all of us who now survive him, as well as with many who have passed away.

His memory is linked with the recollections of numbers of our Bar who entered upon professional life and labor nearly at the same time with himself, while it is also closely connected with the experience of our younger brethren who have, at more recent dates, become associated with us. But, in every point of contact, without regard to age or professional position, the name of Judge Harden will always suggest the ready recognition of a generous and kindly sympathy, of which he seemed, by common consent, to be the centre and the exponent.

Without attempting any fulsome eulogy or immeasured praise concerning the character and abilities of Judge Harden, which his own modesty would, during his lifetime, have repelled and disclaimed, we are certain that in all candor and truthfulness we can offer this well merited tribute to his memory.

As a Judge, he was upright and just. As a counsellor, he was

wise, prudent and safe. As an advocate and attorney, he was earnest, zealous, faithful and stern in integrity. He was distinguished in the profession by his laborious industry, by his great legal acquirements, and by his devotion to his duties and to the interests of his clients. In literary attainments he was a ripe and accurate scholar.

In his personal intercourse with the members of the Bar, and with his fellow-citizens generally, he always manifested a genial temper and an affectionate disposition, which attracted to him the friendship of all whom he had occasion to meet.

He was ever willing and ready to assist any member of the profession by his labor and advice. His extensive and varied legal reading, together with his remarkable power of memory, enabled him, at all times, to afford prompt and reliable counsel in a difficult case to any brother who needed help.

There is probably not a member of this Bar who has not, at some time or other, received valuable aid from him in the preparation or management of his causes.

His private life was universally acknowledged to have been pure and virtuous. In truth, few men die who can carry, as we believe he will, to the tribunal of the Almighty, the record of a heart so free from guile and of a conscience so void of offense towards God and towards man.

We shall miss him in our consultations and counsels; in the forum, and in the daily habits of customary friendly intercourse.

We feel that his death has left a vacancy among us that cannot easily be filled, and that the absence of his familiar form from the places where we were wont to meet him, will long be a source of sadness to us all.

The Committee suggest, for the consideration of this meeting, the following resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That the foregoing expresses the sentiments of the Savannah Bar upon the occasion of the death of the late Hon. Edward J. Harden.

2. *Resolved*, That the Judge of the Superior Court of Chatham county, and of the Circuit Court of the United States, be requested to have these proceedings entered upon their respective minutes.

3. *Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be sent by the

Secretary of this meeting to the family of the deceased, and that the same be furnished for publication to the gazettes of this city.

HENRY WILLIAMS,
GEO. A. MERCER,
ALFRED B. SMITH,
JOHN BILBO,
Committee.

SAVANNAH, MAY 6, 1873.

Upon the reading of the report, Hon. Julian Hartridge moved that it be adopted as read, and that a copy be furnished the United States Court to be recorded upon its minutes. The motion was seconded by Hon. W. W. Paine, and carried.

HENRY R. JACKSON,
Chairman.

SAM'L B. ADAMS, Secretary.

*PROCEEDINGS OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.*

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ROOMS, }
ARMORY HALL, 20th April, 1873. }

A called meeting of the Society was held to take action in reference to the death of the President, Hon. E. J. Harden. Dr. Charters, First Vice President, took the Chair, and W. W. Paine was requested to act as Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Lancaster, a Committee of five was appointed to report suitable resolutions in relation to the death of our late President. The following gentlemen were appointed on that committee: Dr. R. D. Arnold Hon. Solomon Cohen, Wm. S. Bogart, Dr. J. Harriss and Hon. T. M. Norwood.

On motion of Dr. Harriss, the Society adjourned to attend in a body the funeral of the late President.

W. W. PAINE, Secretary *pro tem.*

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, }
MAY 19th, 1873. }

An adjourned meeting of the Society was held this evening, to

receive the report of the Committee upon the death of our late President, Hon. E. J. Harden, Dr. W. M. Charters in the Chair.

Dr. Arnold, Chairman of the Committee, then read the following

REPO^RT.

The Committee to whom was referred a resolution, adopted at a called meeting of the Georgia Historical Society, held on the 20th April, to adopt suitable resolutions on the death of the Hon. E. J. Harden, late President of the Society, beg leave to report:

Death makes a void in every family, which is never entirely filled. When a man dies, who, in addition to his position as head of a family, has occupied important trusts in a community, his loss is felt by it, as well as the private family. Such was the case in relation to him, whose death, which occurred on the 19th April, 1873, we are now called on to deplore. Your committee will not intrude on the sacredness of private grief.

An eminent member of the Bar, a learned Judge on the Bench, his professional brethren have already laid a graceful and well merited tribute upon his bier. A sincere Christian, for many years a presiding elder in the Presbyterian Church, his fellow-members have borne testimony to the faithful performance of his duties in that sphere. Indeed, a conscientious performance of all duties was a part and parcel of his nature.

The affectionateness of his character, the kindness of his nature, the geniality of his disposition, were strongly evidenced in a large crowd of his Sunday School scholars who attended his obsequies as mourners.

But our Society is connected with him by another important trust which he long filled amongst us. He was one of the members of this Society at its first formation, in the spring of 1839. And just here your committee wish to note the effect of early training. It may be trite, but it is true,

'Tis education forms the common mind—
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined. .

Born in Bryan county, in the year 1813, and raised there, he had the good fortune to have in his family a man whose erudition as a classical scholar has never been surpassed—a man who left his impress on several generations of our seaboard, which a prolonged life enabled him to see, as the ripest of scholars, the best

of instructors of youth. The older portion of my hearers will readily understand that I allude to Judge Harden's step-grandfather, the venerable William McWhir, D.D.

The taste for classical learning thus implanted in the boy never left the man. It shaped his early course, it adorned his meridian career, it gilded the sunset of his life. He determined to study law, but as his means were limited, he was thrown upon his own resources, and determined to complete his literary education by teaching school, and at the same time accumulate means for his legal one. The first acquaintance of the Chairman of your Committee with Judge Harden, was formed in 1832, when he was attending a school examination at the Chatham Academy, of which the Rev. George White was the Principal, and in which Judge Harden was an assistant teacher. In after life, he constantly referred to this first acquaintance, which was the first link in the chain of friendship, which was broken by death only. After this, he taught in Glynn and Bryan counties until 1834, when he was admitted to the Bar. Since that period, up to the time of his death, he resided constantly among us, and you have seen him gradually conquer the highest honors of his profession, and occupy the highest social, literary and religious positions in this community. His literary taste and acquirements made him take an active interest in the success of our Society, to the present prosperity of which his zeal and intelligence so largely contributed. He filled various important offices in it, and at the demise of the great and good Elliott, he was elected President, which office he filled up to the time of his death.

In his personal relations with the world, all who knew him will bear witness to his uniform courtesy, his geniality, and that genuine wit which renders intercourse with our fellow-men so attractive.

His acquaintance with English literature was varied and extensive; particularly was he noted as a Shakspearian scholar. He always kept up his love for the classics, and few men whose lives are occupied with the duties of an active profession were his superior in this department of knowledge. Enough has been said to prove that Judge Harden was no ordinary man.

Be it Resolved by the Georgia Historical Society, That in the death of Judge Harden, they have lost a valuable member of our community, a ripe scholar and a most efficient presiding officer; and that they deeply deplore his loss, at an age which, under ordinary

circumstances, promised more years of prolonged usefulness in his various trusts in life.

Resolved, That the sympathy of this Society be tendered to his afflicted family, and that a copy of this Report be forwarded to them; that it be spread upon the minutes of the Society, and be published in the newspapers of the city.

R. D. ARNOLD, Chairman.

SAVANNAH, MAY 19, 1873.

Upon motion to receive and adopt the Report of the Committee, Mr. Wm. S. Bogart made the following remarks:

Gentlemen of the Georgia Historical Society :

The loss of such a man as Judge Harden, our late President, makes it eminently proper that we pay this tribute to his character. Both as a member of this committee, and as a personal friend, I desire to concur in these resolutions, exhibiting as they do, in fitting language and with generous appreciation, the main points of Judge Harden's character; and in doing so, if I may be allowed, to say a few words expressive of my own esteem for him.

Judge Harden, you are told by every one, and we feel it to be true, was no common man. Intellectually, morally and socially, he deserved all his reputation, and will bear to be studied. Men are said to derive their mental traits from the mother rather than the father. Of his father I knew nothing—he died, a young man, over fifty years ago. I remember with what interest in visiting the old homestead of his widow—the honored matron of a worthy family—I read the inscription on his tomb, "Died May 5th, 1821"—the very day of Napoleon Bonaparte's death, and now just past its fifty-second anniversary. In Judge Harden's case I can well believe the saying, for I knew his mother well, and she had many of the traits of character which he possessed. His father's death, when his son was less than eight years old, devolved on this excellent mother the care of a household of young children to be reared and educated. And well did she perform the task. In her reduced circumstances, it was impossible to send them away from home, and for the want of a school near by, she employed for many years a home tutor, and thus supplied the needs of her own children and those of her neighbors. It is the best evidence of the judgment, steady purpose and good management of Mrs. Harden that she lived to train up her six children, honored and respected, educated them far better than is usual even now in a

home school, and retained all her life in possession the estate where her short married life was spent, and where her children were born. She died ten years ago, full of years, and full of the love and reverence of her children, and of the respect and attachment of her friends. I knew Mrs. Harden well, and I have in possession many of her letters—which I greatly prize—written in all the freedom of friendship, and full of humor and pleasantry combined with solid good sense, and expressed with ease and grace of composition—all of which qualities were inherited by her son.

At the proper age, Judge Harden was sent to Sunbury to school, and there he enjoyed the rare advantage of instruction by a scholar, reared under the thorough training and discipline of a European University. This gentleman was the Reverend Dr. McWhir, known to us all by reputation, who had married Judge Harden's grandmother. Dr. McWhir had been invited to America by General Washington, and for some time had taught a school in Alexandria, Virginia. I have often heard the Judge speak with great respect and gratitude of this old gentleman. He considered him the most learned scholar and the best teacher (though withal a very stern disciplinarian) that he had ever known; and the instances he used to quote of the Doctor's readiness and fullness of knowledge, especially in the classics, verify this opinion. To him the Judge owed that scholastic knowledge which we all so often admired. The Doctor had laid broad and deep the foundation of his pupil's education, especially in Latin, and had imbued him with such a taste and appreciation of its beauty and value, that not the struggles of after life, nor the absorption of professional business, nor the length of years, availed to make him forget his early teaching, nor to lose his interest in classical studies. To that thorough and wise instruction, in which general culture was based upon and grew up with technical knowledge, we must ascribe that very taste for cultivated pursuits in Judge Harden, which does not exist in many men of even more elaborate education, because of defective early training.

How fond Judge Harden was of classical studies, how much his mind ran in that line, we all know; for this was a favorite subject of conversation, and filled his language with allusions to the life and literature of the ancients, and enriched it with the most pertinent quotations. His knowledge of these subjects was both accurate and critical. He was authority—excellent authority

for a non-professional scholar—on most branches of polite literature, on many historical questions, on poetical quotations, and on a great variety of matters connected with the English language, orthography and orthoepy particularly.

Had he been a man of leisure, not burdened with the cares of a laborious profession, we have ample reason to know how he would have employed it, by recalling what he has done, under circumstances that would with most men have precluded all literary effort. Nothing but a love for literary pursuits, and a training that fitted him for them, could have decoyed a lawyer of large practice from his business to the thankless task of writing the life of the great State Rights Governor of Georgia, or to take up as a piece of by-play or mental recreation the composition of a short tour in neat and graceful *Latin*.

As indicative of the “ruling passion,” I may state a fact that I have learned within a few days. This very winter, when he was convalescing from his severe attack, he busied some of his leisure hours, which otherwise would have been tedious, in translating into accurate and elegant English the famous Preface to Livy’s History—the sixty lines of the original Latin, remarkable for their conciseness and obscurity—and this paper, most probably his last literary effort, written with his characteristic care and neatness, is now the highly prized possession of one of the members of this Society.

Equally illustrative of his classical taste, and of his pride in the Historical Society, is his agency in the production of the beautiful little volume written by Mr. Anthony Barclay on “Wilde’s Summer Rose.” To Judge Harden is due the reproduction, to gratify the taste of a new generation, of this famous so-called plagiarism. Written at his request, dedicated to him as President of the Historical Society, and put forth with a preface by himself, he took a most lively interest in its publication, revised the manuscript with all the affection of the writer himself, guarded it very solicitously against typographical errors, and by his taste and scholarship, seconded by the printer’s skill, secured for the Society a volume to be envied. Had Judge Harden done nothing else to distinguish his Presidency, his agency in bringing into existence this beautiful gem would entitle him to our lasting gratitude.

Judge Harden was a man of most lively temperament. His spirits were as buoyant as a child’s, overflowing with gayety and

wit, restrained only by unwillingness to hurt the feelings of others. There was nothing vindictive in his vein of humor. He loved to say witty things, for his mind overflowed with them, but he never said them in harshness or in gall. Some may have thought his habit of punning to be frivolous, or beneath his dignity; but it was the overflow of a mind brimful of witty conceits, (like the streams from a fountain of sweet waters) and the expression of a heart that loved social life and wished to see others happy.

Judge Harden's memory was wonderfully tenacious. It was surprising to see the multitude of facts, incidents and anecdotes he had stored up in his mind, and how pleasantly and aptly he could quote them. Whether practical incident, or moral truth, or verbal expression, he used each and all with singular impressiveness and propriety.

The readiness, too, with which he grasped anything new was also characteristic. It needed no elaborate explanation, nor many words, to give him the gist of a new subject. He saw the point at once, and as quickly understood it. His mind in this respect was equally versatile and flexible.

A flow of deeper feeling was in Judge Harden's heart than a stranger would see. To a mere acquaintance he may have seemed at times to trifle. His very volatility of mind may have led some to think he had no real earnestness or warmth. But underneath this outward gayety there flowed warm and gushing feelings of affection, gentleness and delicacy, sentiment and devotion to principle, that were not meant to be seen by the world; and I have often thought that this outward pleasantry was put on to hide these very treasures of the heart.

Men, particularly, are unwilling that the world shall see all the tenderness of their nature, or look down into those depths where are nursed the well springs of the affections. Hence, I believe our lamented friend had an inner life of domestic affection, of kindly sympathy and trusting friendship, that, covered up at times by surface gayety and a little brusqueness of manner, it was not the privilege of every one to behold. It is the pleasant duty of us who knew him best to unveil this charming feature of his character, and to give him the credit which he did not claim for himself.

As a lawyer and a judge, I need say nothing. I am not competent to estimate Judge Harden in these relations, nor is it

necessary. His brethren of the Bar have done him ample justice in this respect. But as a friend, intimate and well known, I have desired to offer to his memory my humble tribute, as to a man of warm and sincere heart, of high integrity and personal honor, of tender affection and true friendship, of generous impulses and freedom from harshness; and as a man of trained intellect, quickness of perception, large culture, and with a wealth—alike of critical knowledge and general information. In these respects I esteemed and valued him, and in these respects I feel assured we shall all miss him.

On motion, the Society requested a copy of Mr. Bogart's remarks to be entered on the minutes.

On motion of Dr. Charters, in the Chair, the Memorial Committee was directed to have printed in pamphlet form, all the proceedings and resolutions of various public bodies, with such private communications as are obtainable, relative to the death of Judge Harden.

The Society also appointed Messrs. W. Grayson Mann, J. S. F. Lancaster and John O. Ferrill a committee to report at the next meeting on the probability of obtaining for our Hall a portrait of Judge Harden.

The Society then adjourned.

EASTON YONGE, Secretary.

The Committee are glad to append the following statement, made by one of their number, which is interesting, as referring to a critical period in Judge Harden's life, and highly honorable to him as a citizen of Savannah:

CARD BY ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

One incident in the life of Judge Harden is well worthy of being recorded, as strongly evidencing the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens.

At the close of the war, Judge Harden returned to Savannah, when he was arrested by the military authorities, and was about being sent to Fort Pulaski. The writer of this card interposed for the purpose of having him bailed; but a bond, with good security, in the sum of *one hundred thousand dollars*, was demanded. The writer prepared the bond, and every name signed as surety was voluntarily tendered—and indeed several were refused the *privilege* of becoming his bail, simply because there was no room to add another name. And when the bond was presented to the Provost Marshal, it represented a value of over *three hundred thousand dollars*.





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